

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON
EUGENE DIVISION

Elizabeth HUNTER; et al., on behalf of)
themselves and all others similarly situated,)
Plaintiffs,)
v.)
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION and)
Suzanne GOLDBERG, in her official capacity as)
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,)
U.S. Department of Education,)
Defendants.)
Civil Action No. **DECLARATION OF SCOTT MCSWAIN**

I, Scott McSwain, declare:

1. I am over 18 years of age and have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this declaration and would testify truthfully to them if called upon to do so.
2. I am a resident of Tacoma, Washington, located in Pierce County.
3. I started attending Union University in Jackson, TN in July 2006. I graduated in May 2010.
4. I chose Union University because my father is a Southern Baptist minister and knew the then president and several professors since he was an alumni.
5. I was originally supposed to attend Murray State University in Kentucky but, when my father found out my roommate to be was gay, my family decided it was best to attend a school where surrounding myself with godly people would have a more positive effect on me.
6. Union has “Community Values Statements”, which are included in the student handbook that goes to all students. These statements address a number of the school’s moral and ethical standards, including when it comes to queer and gender non-conforming students.
7. There is a paragraph on “Sexually Impure Relationships” in the “Community Values Statements”. This policy states: “Sexually impure relationships include but are not limited to participation in or appearance of engaging in premarital sex, extramarital sex, homosexual activities, or cohabitation. Union affirms that sexual relationships are designed by God to be expressed solely within a marriage between a man and a woman. The Bible condemns all sexual relationships outside of marriage (Matt. 5:27-29; Gal. 5:19). The promotion, advocacy, defense or ongoing practice of a homosexual lifestyle (including same-sex dating behaviors) is also contrary to our community values.

Homosexual behaviors, even in the context of a marriage, remain outside Union's community values. We seek to help students who face all types of sexual temptation, encouraging single students to live chaste, celibate lives, and encouraging married students to be faithful to their marriage and their spouse."

8. The policy goes on to address transgender students in a "Gender Identity" paragraph which states: "Union adheres to the biblical tenet that God created only two genders, that He fashioned each one of us and thus designated our gender/sex. Therefore, identifying oneself as a gender other than the gender assigned by God at birth is in opposition to the University's community values. Further, engaging in activities or making any efforts to distinguish or convert one's gender/sex to something other than the gender/sex to which you were biologically born and which was God-given (i.e. transvestites, transsexuals, transgenders, etc.) is prohibited."
9. The school dress code also commands that faculty, students, and staff must "dress in such a way that represents their legal gender".
10. I am a gay man.
11. During my time at Union, the school found out I was gay. I don't know how they found out I was gay. It could have been an ex-girlfriend, another gay student at the school, or someone in my fraternity.
12. I was taken into a dimly lit room where Union told me that I was going to hell and that the school was worried for my soul.
13. Union told me that I would be thrown out and all of my credits taken away if I did not attend sexual conversion therapy.
14. I was given vouchers for an Exodus International approved therapist.
15. I was also required to install software that would send the school my online history every week.
16. During my time in conversion therapy, I was sexually assaulted by my therapist. I reported this to the school.
17. Union University subjected me to severe psychological torture through their discipline.
18. The school's policies made me feel that I was subpar and subhuman in their eyes.
19. As a result of the school's actions, I was diagnosed with anxiety and panic disorder. I have been to urgent care multiple times for panic attacks, including as recently as August of 2020.
20. I am participating in this lawsuit because Union continues to discriminate against students and potential students based on who they love while accepting federal funds. I

want to have a part in rooting out the discrimination and psychological torture that is still going on in West Tennessee.

21. I am a federal income taxpayer in the United States. I am also repaying student loans from the U.S. Department of Education that I took out to enroll in Union.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed this ____ day of March, 2021.

By:



Scott McSwain